Detroit July 31st 1839

My very dear Brother

You will see by my date that a week beyond my usual time for writing has passed — but let me assure you, that the omission was not intentional — circumstances occurred just at the period for sending off a letter, which prevented my writing — & I therefore take the earliest succeeding opportunity for so doing — — — —

It is now seven long weeks since the receipt of your last letter — & you may well suppose that I am exceedingly anxious & impatient to get more recent intelligence from you — I anticipated a longer interval than usual, from the fact that the last came in so short a space — but if you wrote by the first of June as I hope — it is surely time for a letter to arrive, even here — I long much to hear from you — to learn what progress you are making in your work — & whether we may still hope for the pleasure of meeting & greeting, you & yours, as early as the first of Oct — It seems long — very long since we have known any thing of you & indeed it is, near three months — To some, these three months have wrought sad changes — I pray that with you — all may be well —

Since my last I have had the pleasure of seeing those, who have given you a welcome in a foreign land, viz Mr & Mrs Whiting of the Mission at Jerusalem — Mr W— has three brothers residing in this city — with whom he spent two weeks — We were quite interested & desirous to see him, knowing that he had seen you, near a year later than ourselves — & we called immediately upon their arrival — They were out — but the next morning, he called to see us — & manifested so much interest in you, & seemed so anxious for recent intelligence — that he quite won my regard — We saw them several times in visits & calls & were much gratified with their acquaintance — The evening that they visited us — Mr W— came to me & said that he had that day seen your work advertised in a N.Y. paper — as just received from Paris — under the title of "Robinson's Travels in Syria & Palestine" — I doubted its being yours, from the fact that on the 8th May your last date you said it was but a fourth written — another reason for doubting was — its coming from Paris — I could not understand it, & Mr W— said he knew of no other traveller of that name & he could not comprehend its meaning — perhaps you may know — & I too might, possibly, if I were not a little beyond the region for enquiry — I heard Mr W— make some public statements respecting the Mission &c from which I should infer that he is rather mediocre as to talents — though he seems to be a very good man — Both himself & wife are very anxious to return to their field of labour — & are only waiting for her health to be sufficiently reestablished — she is now much better than on her arrival. & they hope to return in the coming winter — Mr W— anticipates having the pleasure of meeting you in New York this fall —— By the way — I think you must have looked rather oddly — with the red cap & mustaches —

I think I have mentioned that the elder Mr Tracy had — in the hope of retrieving his fallen fortunes — purchased a farm in the vicinity of Monroe Mich — & had taken his family on to it — He was very sanguine of success — was making extensive improvements — & using every exertion to bring about a result so desirable — He was in good health & spirits — when he was suddenly attacked, two weeks since with a paralysis of the right side — As soon as we heard of it — we, i.e. Mr & Mrs Woodruff Mr Romeyn & myself, went down to see the family &c — The farm is four miles from Monroe — but there — we met George Tracy with his brother & sister just arrived from Buffalo —

We were not permitted to see Mr T— we learned however that his case was not considered hopeless — but the physicians thought he would recover the use of speech — though he might not entirely the use of his limbs — The family were very much distressed — & indeed, their case is a very sad one — Brought up in opulence, with no want unsupplied, no wish ungratified, the contrast of their present circumstances is most painful — yet they bear it all with a great deal of fortitude — & their greatest trial is that their Father is deprived of so many accustomed comforts — — — George T— arrived here on Monday morning on his return to B— & brought us favorable accounts of his Father — He is able to articulate some — but when apparently most conscious he makes no effort to speak — although his residence there has been but short he has gained the respect of the community — & his case has excited much interest — — — My unexpected excursion to Monroe was the cause of my omitting to write to you — We went on Wednesday in a little boat which runs between this place & Toledo — & returned on Thursday in the same — The country about M— is very pleasant — the soil is sandy — but very productive — The crop of wheat there, as also throughout the state is very abundant; — the Indian corn is luxuriant in growth & depth of colour — It is said that there will be a million bushels of surplus wheat in this state — The city of M— is in general not very attractive though there are some fine houses — many trees — & fine yards & gardens We were much gratified —

We are now quite solitary here — for Laura has gone with all her children to visit Helen — She left Monday evening with Mr T— & I suppose has at about this time arrived at B—. We miss them exceedingly — for Sophia & Susan are at the age to make a good deal of noise about the house — & little James of course requires much care — The latter is a dear little fellow — always goodnatured & playful — They will be absent about two weeks — & after their return Sophia intends also to visit Helen — I have not decided whether to go on with her — or remain here two or three weeks longer — Circumstances will determine this — Helen was left quite alone last week & not having many acquaintances in B— she felt exceedingly desolate — Her Troy friends have some of them been with her up to that time — — — I have no recent intelligence from our more eastern friends — The latest date of a joint letter from George & Harriet, is the 4th instant — They were all much as usual — — Nancy's health is not good — & as I do not receive any letters from her — I conclude she is not able to write — Charles wrote me a long letter a month ago — he seems in good spirits — Cornelia is doing well in school, & was in good health —

The heat for the last ten days has been excessive — & even in our thick walled, airy house, we have suffered exceedingly — Yesterday there were a succession of thunder showers — & to day the weather is cool & comfortable I have sometimes felt as if I could never be *cool* again — I was so thoroughly heated — but I find that such a thing is possible — —

August 1st — I detained my letter yesterday — hoping to-day, to be able to say that I had received a letter from you, my dear brother — & also intelligence from friends at New Haven — But I am still without either very much to my regret — If you are yet intending to come as you have mentioned — I suppose it will not be expedient for me to write again — I shall however be governed by what I may hear from you — This I conclude will reach you in England, but I shall direct as usual — You will think this is a very barren letter, & so I feel that it is — but I hear so little of what is going

h2h

Rev Edward Robinson D.D.

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

Berlin

Prusse

E.C.R. Aug 1. 1839
Recd Sept 5th.

PAID

LE HAVRE 28 AOUT 1839 (76)

O TRE-MER 28 AOUT LE HAVRE

NEW-YORK AUG 17

CF4R

FORWARDED BY DELAUNAY & Co HAVRE

Le 28 August 1839

Bellevue Nov 18
Nov 19

on eastward among those whom you know — that I have nothing to communicate on that head — & it is rare that I see a N.Y. paper — — But we hope you will soon see & know personally whatever may interest you here. & until then I believe I must bid you Adieu — Love to sister Theresa Mary & Eddy all of whom we trust soon to welcome to our country —

With every good wish for your success — & for a prosperous voyage —

I am your affectionate sister

Elisabeth

Sister Sophia sends much love —